

Anna Georges Eshoo

1942–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

DEMOCRAT FROM CALIFORNIA

1993–



Image courtesy of the Member

ANNA ESHOO REPRESENTS THE 14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

which includes Silicon Valley, hub of the American high technology industry. Much of Eshoo's legislative focus has involved incorporating that technology into education, medicine, government, and Americans' everyday lives.

Anna Georges was born in New Britain, Connecticut, on December 13, 1942. Her mother, Alice Babaian Georges, was of Armenian descent; her father, Fred Georges, was of Assyrian descent. She earned an associate degree in English literature from Cañada College in Redwood City, California, in 1975, and an honorary degree from Menlo College. She also is a graduate of the Coro Foundation. She is the mother of two children, Karen and Paul. She served as a Democratic National Committeewoman from 1980 to 1992. From 1981 to 1982, Eshoo was chief of staff to Leo McCarthy, speaker of the California assembly. In 1982, she was elected to the board of supervisors of San Mateo County, serving for 10 years. She also was a member of the California National Commission on Presidential Nominations.

Eshoo was elected to Congress in 1992, when she won the U.S. House seat in California's 14th Congressional District. When Republican Tom Campbell retired from his seat to run for the U.S. Senate, Eshoo entered the Democratic primary and edged out two well-known Democrats, California Assemblyman Ted Lempert and San Mateo County Supervisor Tom Nolan. In the general election, Eshoo faced Republican Tom Huening, another San Mateo County supervisor. She ran on her experience of establishing a managed-care health plan in the county, environmental protection, and sound budgeting. Eshoo won a resounding 57 to 39 percent victory.¹ In subsequent campaigns, Eshoo has extended her margins of victory several points each year to 70 percent in 2004.²

When Eshoo entered the 103rd Congress (1993–1995) she received assignments on two committees: Merchant Marine and Fisheries; and Science, Space, and Technology. In the 104th Congress (1995–1997), she was elected to serve on the powerful Commerce Committee, later renamed Energy and Commerce. In 2003, she was appointed by Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi of California to the House

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. She co-chairs the Congressional E-911 Caucus and the House Medical Technology Caucus, and serves as the Vice Chair of the 21st Century Health Care Caucus.

For more than a decade in Congress Representative Eshoo has defended consumers, promoted American competitiveness and innovation, fought for access to health care for families and children, and protected the environment. She has authored landmark legislation that created the use of electronic signatures, making legally binding digital documents possible and allowing online commerce to flourish; provided discounts to schools and libraries to increase public Internet access; secured funding for emergency call centers to obtain the necessary technology to locate mobile phone users when they call 911; promoted better labeling and testing of pharmaceuticals for children; exempted Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mitigation grants from income taxes, saving homeowners from being required to pay the government for vital damage prevention; ensured that low-income women who are diagnosed with breast and cervical cancer receive treatment; and required insurance companies to pay for reconstructive surgery for cancer patients.

Representative Eshoo has sponsored legislation aimed at “cleaning up the House” to restore the confidence of the American people in their government. She has co-sponsored numerous reform bills to require more transparency and accountability in lobbying, as well as a more fair and open legislative process. From her position on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Eshoo has authored legislation to protect national security and civil liberties, as well as legislation to require that any surveillance or intelligence gathering be conducted in accordance with the law, requiring court warrants based upon probable cause. Her legislative efforts also have sought to reform the U.S. intelligence community, in part, by increasing human intelligence to better meet the security challenges of the 21st century.

In 2005, Rep. Eshoo led House Democrats in introducing “The Innovation Agenda—A Commitment to Competitiveness to Keep American #1.” This comprehensive policy plan was developed in conjunction with leaders from the high technology, biotechnology, academic, and venture capital communities. The agenda calls for a national commitment to achieve U.S. energy independence in the next decade by developing legislation to increase investment in research and development to promote sustainable bio-fuels and hybrid technology. It also calls for the creation of the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy, a new laboratory within the Department of Energy to engage in high-risk, high-reward experimentation to yield discoveries of new sustainable energy sources. Education is a key element of the plan, with a national commitment to advance and enhance training and instruction in math and science.

FOR FURTHER READING

Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, “Anna Georges Eshoo,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

NOTES

¹ *Almanac of American Politics, 1994* (Washington, D.C.: National Journal Inc., 1993): 121–124; Bill Workman, “Democrat Favored in 14th District; GOP Candidate May Miss His Own Reform Session,” 29 October 1992, *San Francisco Chronicle*: A21; “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.

² “Election Statistics, 1920 to Present,” <http://clerk.house.gov/members/electionInfo/elections.html>.